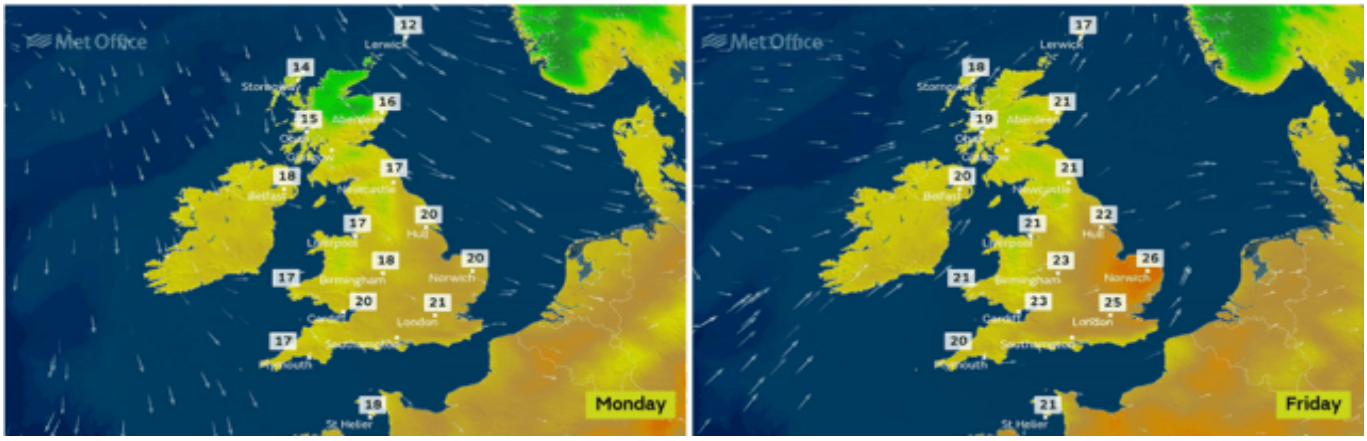
Is it going to turn hotter?

Description

So far this summer we have seen quite a variety of weather. There were heavy and thundery showers in June, plenty of dry weather through July, and then August started wet for many with strong winds in the north over recent days.

The area of low pressure which brought the strong winds to Scotland is now moving away eastwards. This means our flow is coming from the northwest, and so it will be a little cooler than of late with some showers expected. That being said, there will also be a good deal of sunny spells in which it will still feel warm.



Towards the end of the week, an area of high pressure is expected to build from the southwest. Whilst northern parts are likely to see wet and breezy conditions, elsewhere it will be mostly dry and we will see temperatures start to climb.

For the weekend, the high pressure means many places should enjoy some periods of sunshine and temperatures a few degrees above average. However, in the north there will still be some unsettled weather around, especially on Saturday.

> Good news! High pressure moves in by the end of the week and into the weekend, bringing warmer weatherhttps://t.co/ZcSgRAM37M
>
> — Met Office (@metoffice) August 8, 2016

After that and there is the potential for things to turn hot for the beginning of next week. Deputy Chief Operational Meteorologist Laura Paterson said: “An area of low pressure looks likely to drag air up from the south across the UK. Despite being a week ahead, temperatures of 30-32°C look more likely than not across some southern parts of the UK on Monday and Tuesday and there is a chance that even northern parts of the UK could see temperatures into the high 20s Celsius. Next week’s hotter weather does not look likely to last for long though with a thundery breakdown and eventual transition

to cooler conditions expected by around the middle of the week."

The RNLI are advising: "If you're heading to the beach, remember to stay safe and to 'be beachwise' by choosing a lifeguarded beach and taking the right precautions to make sure you stay safe and remember your day at the beach for the right reasons. Our key advice for people planning a trip to the beach, especially those planning to go in the water, is to choose a lifeguarded beach and swim between the red and yellow flags, where the lifeguards can see you. We want people to have fun at the beach, but to make sure they stay safe while they're enjoying themselves."

For the most up to date forecast for your area this week, download our new App, available from the App store and the Google Play store, or follow us on Twitter or Facebook.

Date Created
August 2016

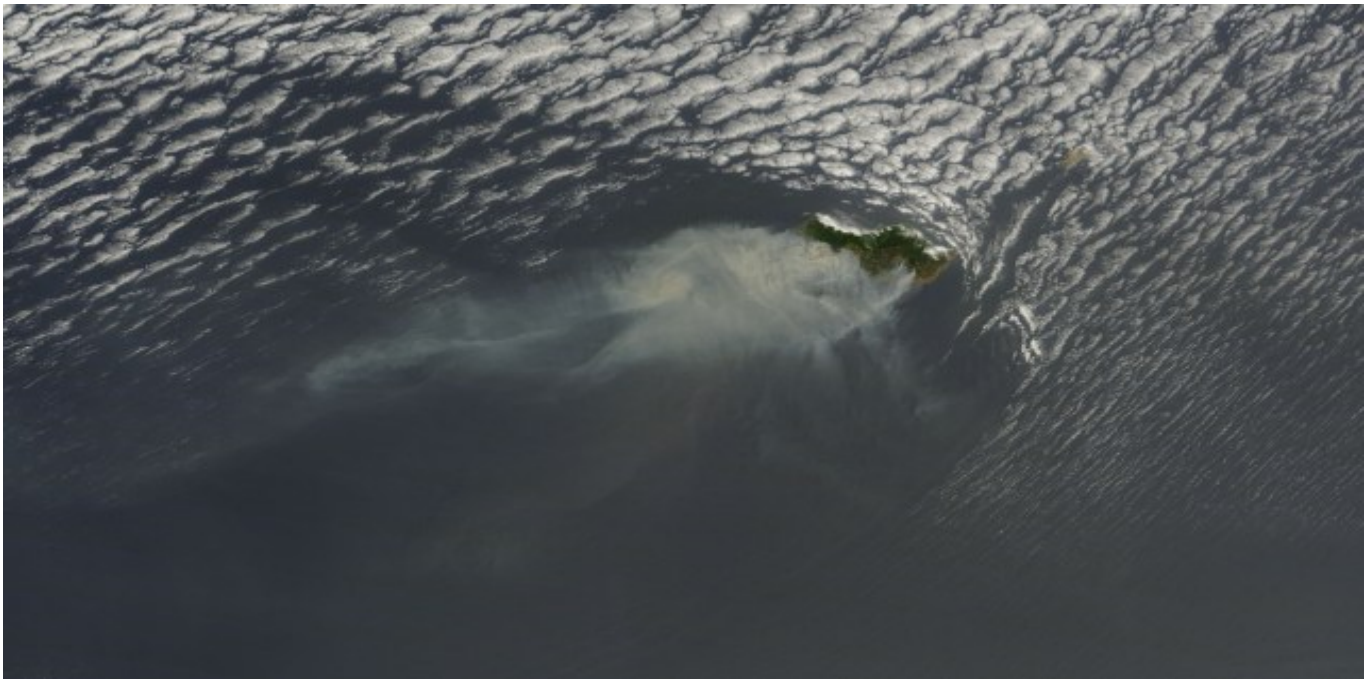
Fire and floods – weather around the globe

Description

The weather has had a major impact on a number of events at the Olympics in Rio, with postponements for both tennis and rowing. Many places around the rest of the world are also experiencing interesting weather at the moment.

Europe:

Warm and dry conditions with strong winds have led to devastating wild fires across Madeira where three people have been killed and a number of properties destroyed. Dry and very warm weather across northern parts of Portugal have also led to wild fires developing here, with almost 400 recorded across the country as a whole. Unfortunately it's unlikely there will be an immediate end to the fires. Further wild fires are also affecting parts of southern France, though these should die out in the next day or so.



Satellite imagery from Wednesday 10 August 2016, showing smoke from wild fires on Madeira. image fror

Temperatures across northern Portugal are expected to rise well above average for the time of year, and the hot conditions should extending into northwest Spain and west France this weekend. Temperatures are likely to peak over 40 C, which is a lot hotter than the low thirties being forecast for southern parts of the UK early next week.

Asia:

A strong monsoon flow will bring heavy rainfall and the risk of flooding to the western side of Luzon,

including Manila. Up to 250 mm could fall in a 24 hour period, and 1000-2000 mm through the next seven days in places. The heavy rainfall and thunderstorms are also expected to affect southern China, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

North America:

Severe floods are also possible in parts of southern USA. Some places saw over 200 mm of rain during Tuesday and Wednesday, with further heavy rain, 50-100 mm, expected each day through to the weekend.

Pacific Ocean:

Tropical Storm Conson is over the western North Pacific and is forecast to strengthen over the next few days, but should not impact land. Some further tropical storm development is expected over other parts of the Pacific Ocean, our Storm Tracker pages will have more information on these.

South America:

Back to Rio, and whilst the unsettled weather caused issues for a number of events, they didn't faze Jack Laugher and Chris Mears who overcame the wind and rain to win gold in the men's synchronised *3m* springboard diving for Team GB. Last night Mears described the weather as "English" and added "We enjoy diving in the rain. We love it."

The forecast for the next few days at the Olympics is a breezy but drier day on Thursday, but it will again be cooler than average for the time of year. Into the weekend a switch in wind direction means it will feel much warmer as temperatures should however climb into the mid-thirties Celsius, which is around 10 degrees above average.

Our forecast pages and new app can provide you with more information on the weather forecast wherever you are.

Date Created
August 2016

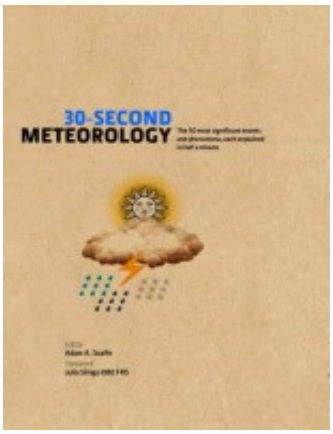
A tour of global meteorology in 50, 30-second topics

Description

Every day there will be an article published somewhere in the world about life-threatening weather or a changing global climate. We're not short of news content, occasionally spiced with a liberal dose of hyperbole. However, until now there have been few accessible and up-to-date sources of reference helping the reader to understand the scientific principles creating the weather and climate.

Professor Adam Scaife is head of Monthly to Decadal Prediction at the UK Met Office and honorary visitin
Picture: Simon Hammett, Met Office.

Professor Adam Scaife, a world-class scientist specialising in long-range forecasting, recognised this gap when he was invited to create a new book: 30-second Meteorology. Adam put together a team of weather and climate experts and collectively they invite readers to take half a minute to digest each of the 50 most important topics in modern-day meteorology and climate science. From the North Atlantic Oscillation and jet streams to rainbows and sundogs, this book will take readers to the edge of our current knowledge.



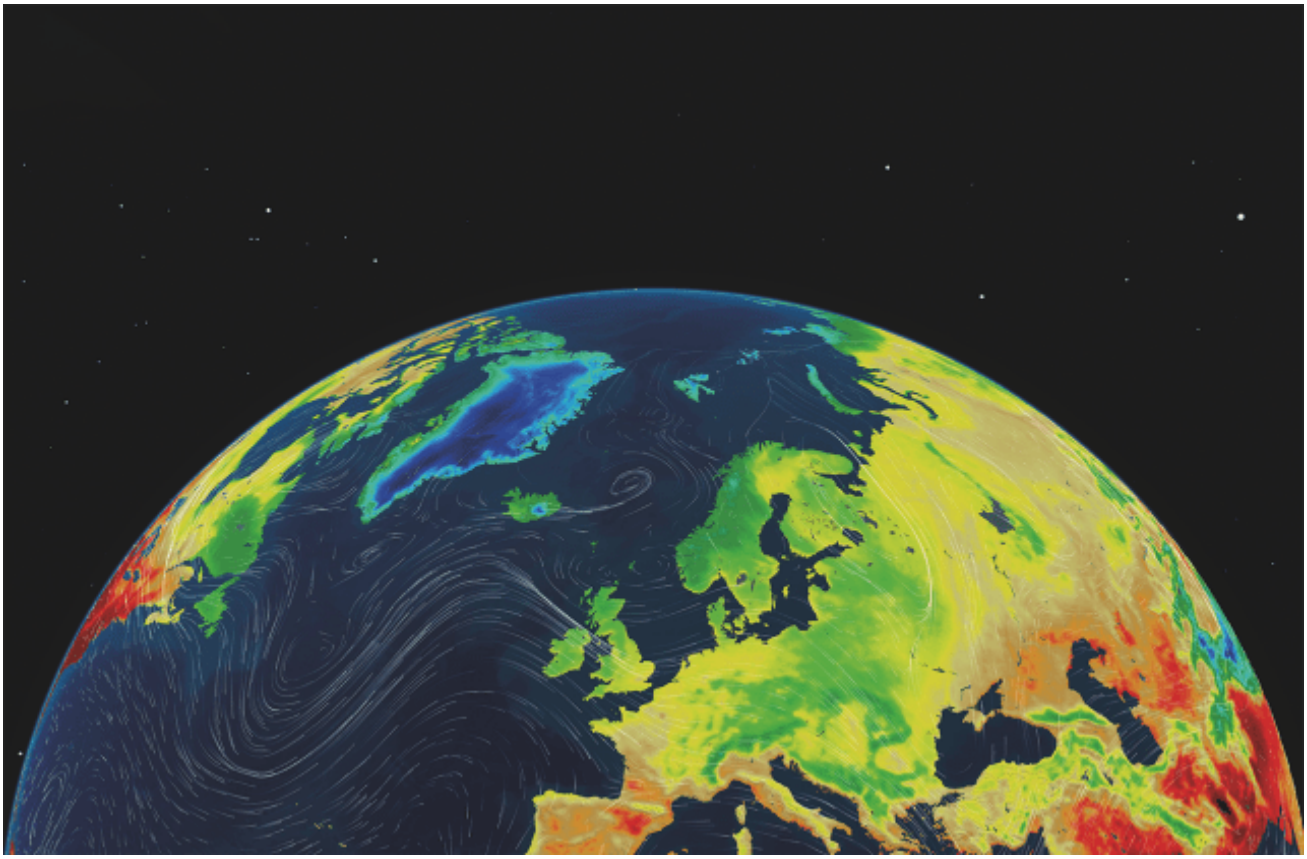
30 Second Meteorology is published by Ivy Press.

In the book's introduction, Prof Scaife said: "You can open this book at any point or immerse yourself in a complete chapter at a time. However you approach the 50 topics, I urge you to speculate on what is to come. Before the advance of atmospheric science, weather forecasters were ridiculed for their dream of predicting the future, but the ever-increasing accuracy of weather forecasts is a reality and this makes them an essential tool to society worldwide. Even long-range predictions of the average weather from months to years ahead are now possible and, in some cases, point towards dramatic future events. Some of these forecasts are destined to become ever more critical and they are unfolding right now, as you read this book, when the globe is warmer than ever recorded before."

Date Created
August 2016

Met Office in the news – BBC weather contract

Description



Met Office northern hemisphere model visualisation

trusted, expert source of weather and climate science in the UK, we work at the heart of Government, with a wide range of customers, and with emergency responders to maintain resilience and public safety.

Its not surprising that our highly trained and popular presenters are in demand; many have been presenting the weather for many years and have become household names. We are working closely with our staff to resolve any issues associated with the end of our contract.

Helen Chivers, Head of news and social media at the Met Office, said: “Nobody knows Britain’s weather better than the Met Office and our expert forecasts and warnings are easily accessible for everyone when it matters.

“Technology is helping us reach more people than ever before in the ways they want, be it on our popular new weather app, website and social media, on-line news providers or independent television networks. This means everyone can have the best weather information at their fingertips, whenever and wherever they need it.

“Our long-standing relationship with the BBC will continue as they broadcast our national severe weather warnings and interview our experts on subjects as diverse as winter storms, global climate change impacts and space weather.”

Our new app is proving very popular and has now had 600,000 downloads since its official launch in May. With a 4.5* rating for iOS and 4* for Android it is in the top 50 apps in the app stores for customer retention.

Helen added: “These are exciting times for us as we work with a wide range of UK broadcasters and media partners to create new and innovative services.”

Date Created
August 2016

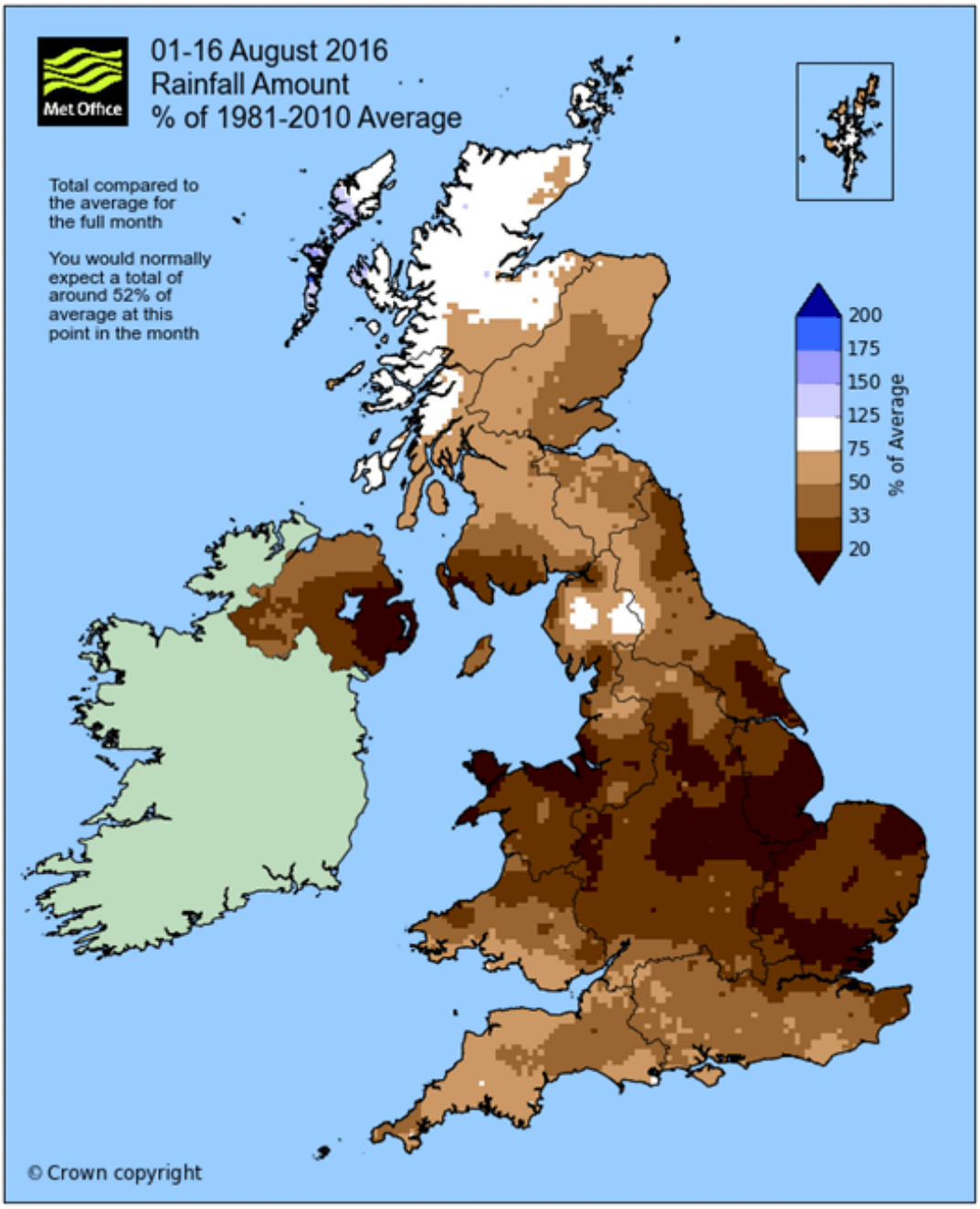
Mostly dry for August so far after a wet start

Description

Provisional mid-month stats are in for August and they show that through the first 16 days there has been quite a contrast in rainfall across the UK.

After the first day of the month, when an area of low pressure gave some large rainfall totals in the south, England, Wales and Northern Ireland have been much drier than average. By this stage in the month you would normally expect around 52% of the total month's average to have fallen. However, many parts have seen less than 20%, with Anglesey only recording 5.6mm which is just 7% of the total month average.

Meanwhile Scotland has been affected by a number of frontal systems, particularly in the north and west, so it has been much wetter here. Many northwestern parts have already reached close to their total month average, as have the Lake District and the northern Pennines.



Map showing 1-16 August 2016 rainfall anomaly from total month average (1981-2010). At this point in the month you would usually expect around 52% of the average

Temperatures have generally been around normal although maximum temperatures are a little above average towards the east coast and slightly below in the west. Looking at sunshine amounts, it has been quite bright for most, but less so in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

	Rainfall		Mean temp		Sunshine	
1-16 August 2016	Act (mm)	Anom (8110)	Act (°C)	Anom (8110)	Act (hrs)	Anom (811

UK	45.2	51	15	0.1	95.5	59
England	24.9	36	16.3	0.2	112.9	62
Wales	36.6	34	15.2	0.2	96.2	57
Scotland	84.4	72	12.8	-0.2	71.6	53
N Ireland	27.6	28	14.8	0.5	67.5	50

After some warm and sunny weather to start this week the forecast is for things to turn much more unsettled for Friday and the weekend, with the potential for a warming trend next week. Thereafter the rest of the month looks likely to be changeable with wetter weather in the northwest and drier in the southeast.

You can keep up to date with the weather using our forecast pages and by following us on Twitter and Facebook, as well as using new mobile app which is available for iPhone from the App store and for Android from the Google Play store.

Date Created
August 2016

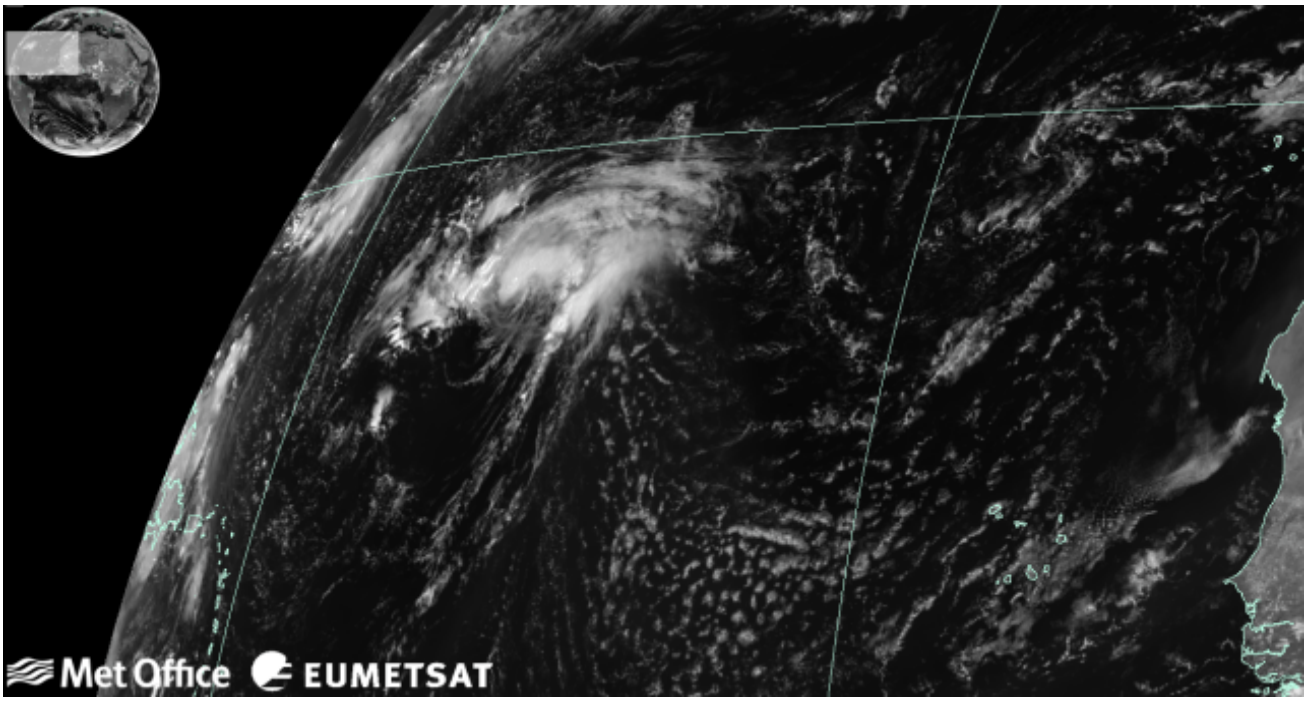
Active tropical storms in the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans

Description

As we head into the peak of the northern hemisphere tropical storm season, there are tropical storms active in the North Atlantic and across the North Pacific. Here is a roundup of current activity:

North Atlantic

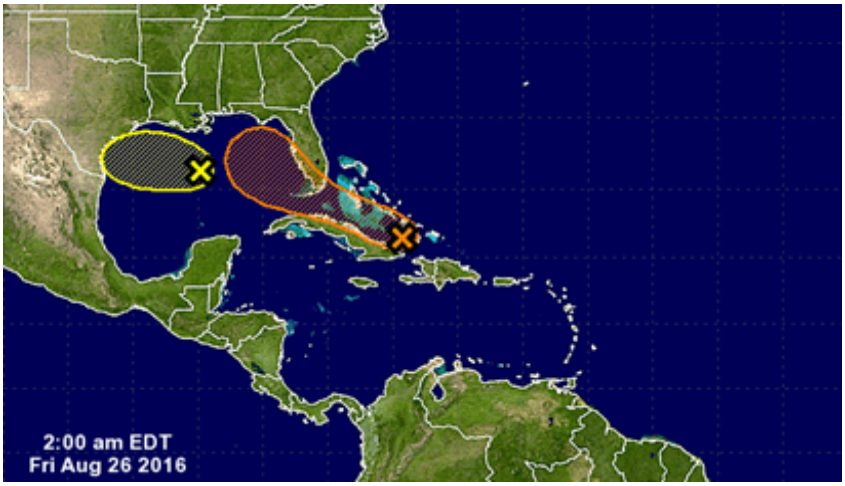
Gaston recently became the third hurricane of the Atlantic season, but has now weakened back down to tropical storm strength. Gaston has the potential to re-intensify over the weekend – perhaps to a major hurricane. However, it is expected to remain over open water in the central Atlantic, possibly causing some large swell as it passes east of Bermuda early next week.



Hurricane Gaston in the North Atlantic at 1610 UTC 25 August 2016. Image courtesy of EUMETSAT

Meanwhile, in the northern Caribbean a region of low pressure close to Cuba has a 60% chance of developing into a tropical storm over the next 5 days. If it does develop, this storm will be called Hermine. Gale force winds, heavy rain and flash flooding is possible over Hispaniola and Cuba during the next couple of days. There is uncertainty in the exact path of this system, but it looks likely to head northwest close to South Florida, and then into the eastern Gulf of Mexico, as indicated by the National Hurricane Center's map below.

A second area of low pressure in the northern Gulf of Mexico is also being closely monitored, but currently only has a 10% chance of development over the next 5 days.



Tropical cyclone potential for the next 5 days. Image courtesy of the US National Hurricane Center

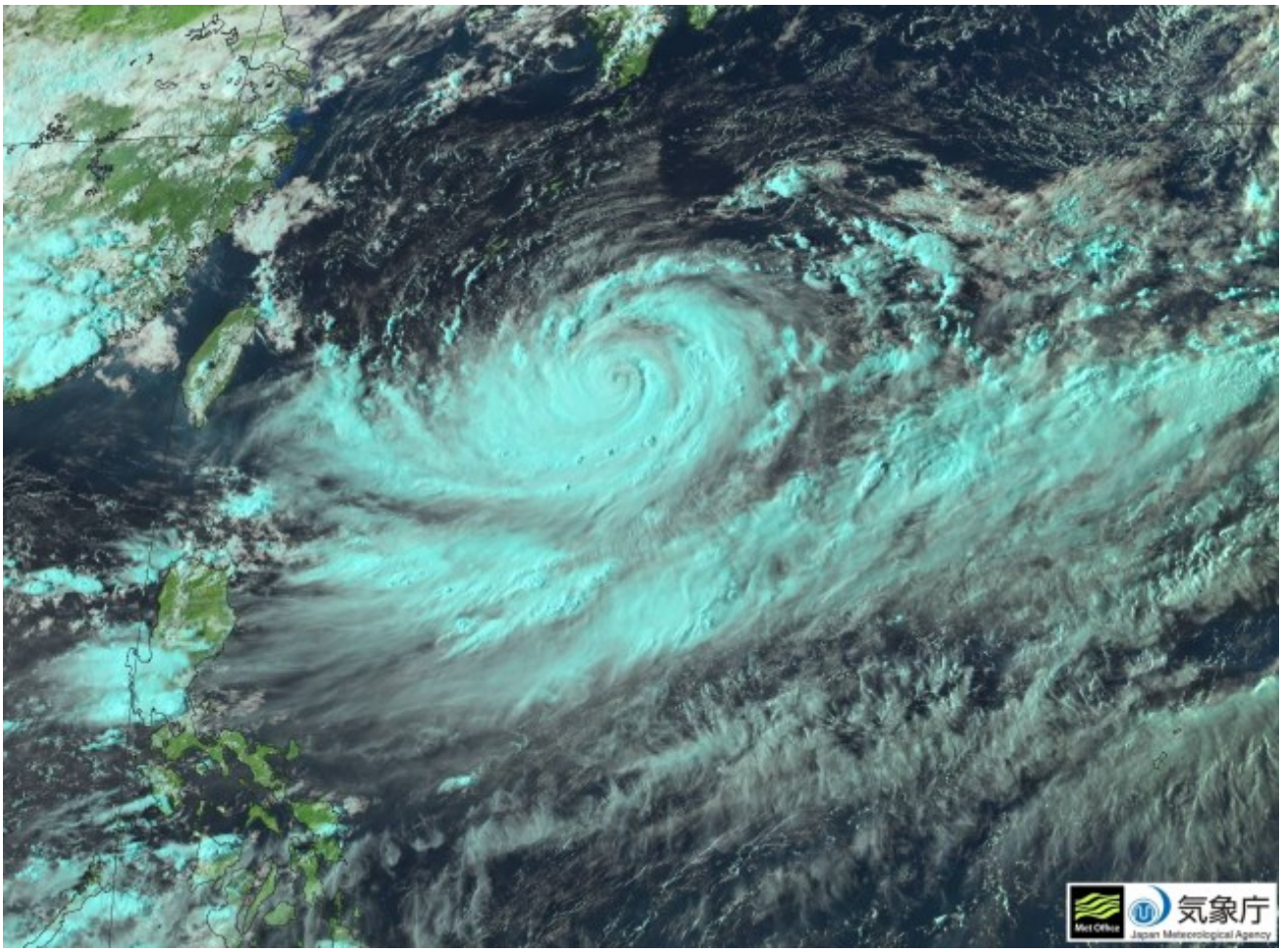
Eastern North Pacific

Tropical Storm Lester formed on 25 August, becoming the 12th tropical storm of the Eastern Pacific season. Lester is forecast to become a hurricane later today, but is expected to remain out at sea and pose no threat to land.

Another region of low pressure to the west of Lester is also being closely watched for development. This region has a 90% chance of development over the next 5 days and could become a tropical depression over the weekend.

Western North Pacific

In the western North Pacific Typhoon Lionrock is currently situated to the south of Japan. Lionrock has strengthened overnight and further strengthening of this storm is expected over the weekend as it starts to head northeast. Although the forecast track for Lionrock is uncertain at this stage, it could pass close to or over the east coast of Honshu, Japan early next week. This region has already seen Typhoon Mindulle make landfall in Tokyo earlier this week.



Typhoon Lionrock to the south of Japan at 0800 UTC 26 August 2016. Image courtesy of JMA

Official warnings for the latest tropical cyclones in the western North Pacific are produced by the Japan Meteorological Agency. Central North Pacific warnings are issued by the Central Pacific Hurricane Center and the eastern North Pacific and North Atlantic warnings by the US National Hurricane Center.

The Met Office routinely supplies predictions of cyclone tracks from its global forecast model to regional meteorological centres worldwide, which are used along with guidance from other models in the production of forecasts and guidance.

You can keep up to date on current tropical storms via @metofficestorms on Twitter and through our Storm Tracker page.

Date Created
August 2016

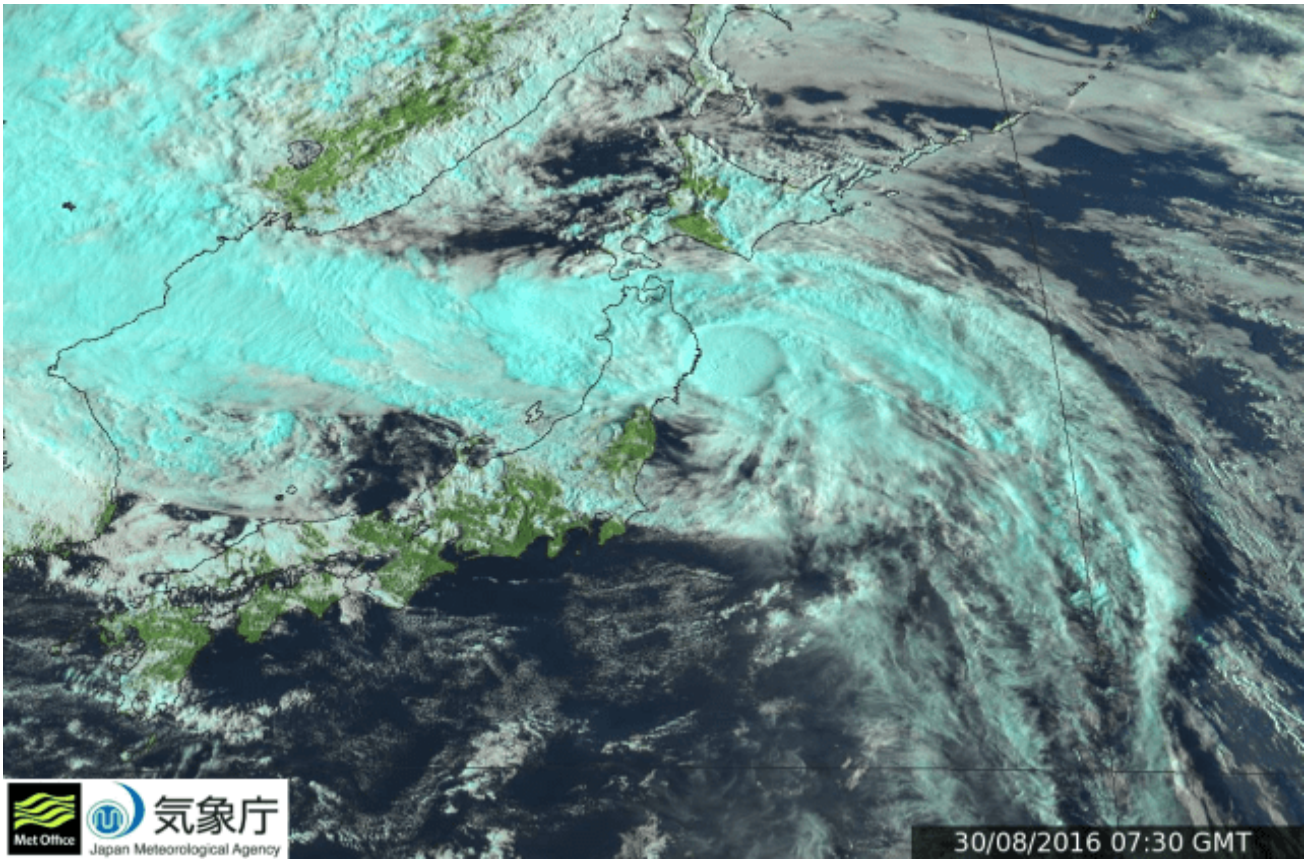
Northern hemisphere tropical cyclone season starts to peak

Description

Climatologically, tropical cyclone activity across the northern hemisphere often peaks in the period from late August through the first half of September. This year is no exception with six tropical cyclones currently active across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Pacific Ocean

In the western Pacific, Typhoon Lionrock has been active for almost two weeks. It is due to make landfall over the northern part of Honshu, the main island of Japan, in the next few hours (Tuesday UK time). Whilst the centre of the typhoon has avoided Tokyo, it is still expected to bring heavy rain and some flooding over many areas of eastern Japan. Lionrock is then expected to curve across the Sea of Japan and bring heavy rain to parts of south-eastern Russia, North Korea and north-eastern China in the next few days before dissipating.

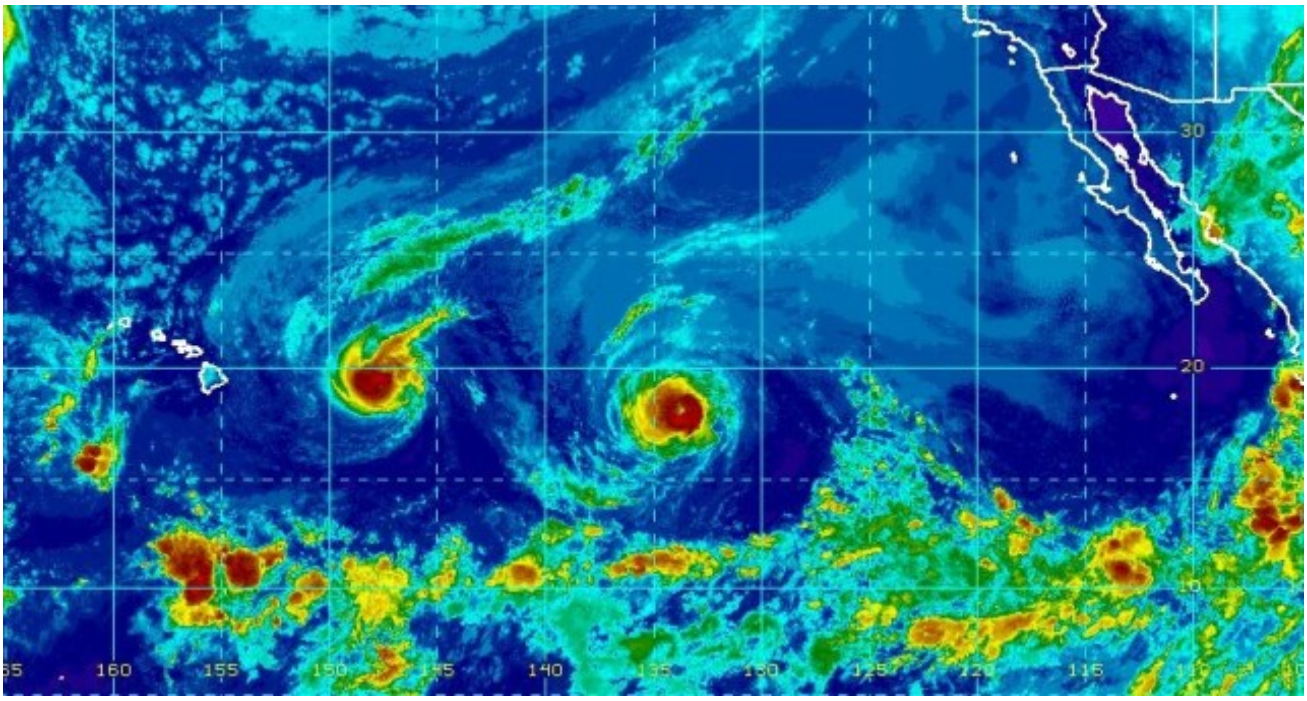


Typhoon Lionrock seen close to the east coast of Japan 30 August 2016
(Image: Japanese Meteorological Agency)

Across the other side of the Pacific Ocean intense hurricanes Madeline and Lester are moving westwards. Madeline is currently category 4 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale and is

heading towards Hawaii. The eye of Madeline may pass just to the south of the Big Island later this week, but is still likely to produce large sea swell and heavy rain.

Even after Madeline has moved away from Hawaii, the islands will remain on alert for Hurricane Lester which is currently category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Current forecasts indicate that it is most likely to pass just to the north of the islands at the weekend. However, there is still some uncertainty and a track closer to Hawaii is possible.



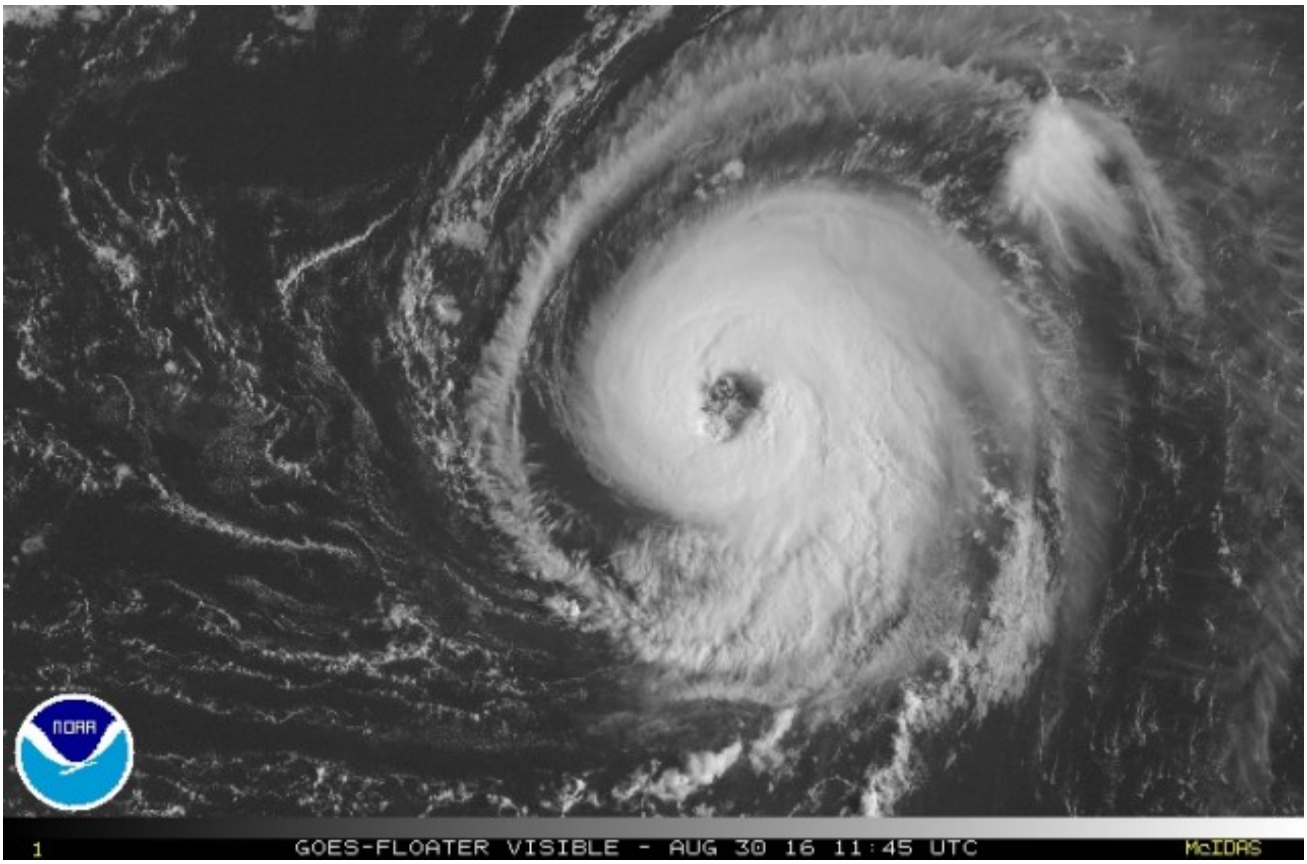
Hurricanes Madeline (left) and Lester (right) seen heading westwards towards Hawaii on 30 August 2016 (Image: NOAA)

Atlantic Ocean

In the Atlantic Ocean there are two tropical depressions which remain just under tropical storm strength and thus have not yet been named. In the Gulf of Mexico Tropical Depression Nine is expected to become a tropical storm soon and is likely to move north-eastwards making landfall over the Gulf coast of northern Florida on Thursday. At this stage the storm is not expected to become a hurricane before landfall. Florida has experienced an exceptionally long ‘drought’ of hurricanes with none having made landfall over the US state since Wilma in 2005.

Tropical Depression Eight is located just to the south-east of the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This depression is expected to strengthen into a tropical storm, but is then likely to turn north-eastwards and move away from the US east coast.

Finally, Hurricane Gaston remains at category 2 strength in mid-Atlantic. It is expected to remain a hurricane as it tracks north-eastwards in the next few days, but then weaken as it crosses the Azores. Whilst there has been some speculation that Gaston could directly affect the UK, at this stage it looks like the storm will decay well short of the UK with some residual moisture contributing to an unsettled spell of weather at the weekend and early next week.



Hurricane Gaston seen in mid-Atlantic on 30 August 2016 (Image: NOAA)

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